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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/773,788

02/06/2004

Radhika R. Roy

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03/17/2009

AT & T LEGAL DEPARTMENT - Slusky

ATTN: PATENT DOCKETING

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EXAMINER

DUONG, DUC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2419

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/17/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,788	ROY, RADHIKA R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duc T. Duong	2419	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 15-19 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 15-19 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The indicated allowability of claims 12, 15-19, and 28 are withdrawn in view of the previously discovered reference(s). Rejections based on the cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 12 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Galasso et al (US Patent 6,374,302 B1).

Regarding to claim 12, Galasso discloses a gatekeeper 310 (master gatekeeper) for use in a communication system (fig. 2), said gatekeeper comprising processor (col. 5 lines 37-40); and a memory coupled to said processor, said memory storing instructions

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adapted to be executed by said processor for performing the steps of (inherent) receiving at said gatekeeper 310 from an associated communicating terminal T a request for information (col. 4 lines 53-55; noted the master gatekeeper 310 received request for information from the terminal T in zone 100 via association of the same domain); if the requested information is known by said gatekeeper, providing the requested information to said associated communicating terminal (col. 4 lines 46-49); receiving at said gatekeeper from a second gatekeeper (another master gatekeeper could queried master gatekeeper 310) a request for information that is not known by said gatekeeper (col. 5 lines 3-5); sending the request that was received from the second gatekeeper to a third gatekeeper (the master gatekeeper 310 would then queried zone gatekeeper in zone 100; col. 5 lines 5-7); receiving from the third gatekeeper the information requested by the second gatekeeper; and sending to the second gatekeeper the information received from the third gatekeeper (the zone gatekeeper in zone 100 would send the requested information back to the master gatekeeper 310 which in turn would forward the requested information to the other master gatekeeper; col. 5 lines 8-15).

Regarding to claim 15, Galasso discloses the requested information is an address (col. 4 lines 55-57).

Regarding to claim 16, Galasso discloses the address is a network address or resource (col. 4 lines 57-60).

Regarding to claims 17 and 18, Galasso discloses the resource is a port, a link, or a trunk (col. 5 Table 1).

Regarding to claim 19, each of the gatekeepers is adapted to use signaling messages conforming to International Telecommunications Union standard H.323 to receive and transmit information between at least itself and its respective subscriber terminals (col. 5 lines 11-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galasso in view of Maheny et al (US Patent 5,790,536).

Regarding to claim 28, Galasso discloses all the limitations with respect to claim 12, except for said gatekeeper is adapted to cache the information received by the third gatekeeper so that if said gatekeeper is again requested for said information, said gatekeeper will be able to provide said information to the source of the request.

However, Mahany discloses a hierarchical communication system, wherein at least one of said plurality access devices is configured to selectively store (cache) requested data (information) for future forwarding requested data (col. 4 lines 43-50).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ the storing of information for future reference as taught by Mahany into Galasso's system so that the communication pathway from the source of the request to the gatekeeper will be shorten.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc T. Duong whose telephone number is (571)272-3122. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM-5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. T. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/Wing F. Chan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419
3/15/09